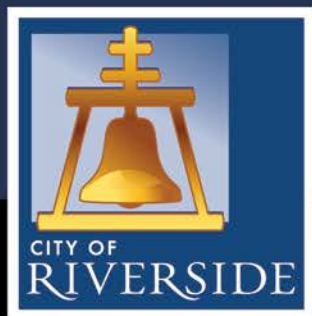




# Federal Legislative Agenda 2013



RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA



*City of Arts & Innovation*



## City of Riverside

### 2013 Federal Legislative Platform

While recent data indicates that the nation's economy is slowly emerging from the recession, according to a recent Beacon Economics report, expectations for improved employment growth in our region were realized in 2012. The pace of growth has picked up in the last six months, and the average year-over-year growth rate in employment has increased to 1.6%, which is on par with Los Angeles County, and only slightly below the state average, Orange County, and San Diego County.

However, there are ongoing legislative challenges at the Federal level. The City of Riverside supports a balanced approach to reducing the deficit and supports the traditional partnership between the federal government and local governments. As such, the City opposes an across-the-board sequestration process to reduce federal spending and supports the incorporation of spending cuts with additional revenue from sources such as federal tax code reform as a mindful approach to achieve deficit reduction. The deep cuts to both discretionary and defense spending mandated by the sequestration process may impact the City's ability to meet the emergent needs of our constituents in a time when our economy continues a slow recovery from the recession.

The City of Riverside's 2013 federal legislative platform focuses on a range of issues while also clearly stating our focus in urging the federal government to do more to create jobs quickly, support infrastructure investment and to stabilize local government budgets.

#### The 2013 legislative priorities are:

1. **Job Creation:** Riverside urges the federal government to make strategic investments in local governments and their economy through job creation and job stabilization. **This issue is the City's first and foremost legislative priority.**
2. **Transportation Infrastructure:** To support a thoughtful approach to transportation infrastructure planning and to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.
3. **Public Safety:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.
4. **Public Utilities:** Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight.
5. **Livability:** Riverside seeks the resources, including grant funding and maintaining tax exempt municipal bond financing, to further the City's revitalization efforts and to protect and enhance the City's neighborhoods.
6. **Environment and Public Health:** Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents' quality of life.

Focus areas under each priority are specifically described in this document, but due to the dynamic nature of federal politics, additional issues are likely to arise during the upcoming year. The overarching principles will serve as guidance to direct staff as these additional issues require attention.

For additional information, contact: Belinda J. Graham, *Assistant City Manager*  
City of Riverside, 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522  
Telephone: (951) 826-5190 Fax: (951) 826-5470 E-mail: [bgraham@riversideca.gov](mailto:bgraham@riversideca.gov)





## Community Profile

People who know and appreciate Riverside think the greatness of their City is not yet known. Riversiders believe it is, unfortunately, the “best kept secret in Southern California.” The hometown feel with big city amenities, attractive and historic downtown, diverse neighborhoods and year-round climate that promotes outdoor living all add up to a place residents are proud to call home.



### National Recognitions:

Riverside was named Intelligent Community of the Year 2012 (Intelligent Community Forum 2012) following its selection as one of 21 cities worldwide to receive the Smart21 Communities award for technology infrastructure (Intelligent Community Forum, 2011).

Riverside is one of only four cities to achieve “Silver” status as a California Green Community for its commitment to sustainability (California Green Communities, 2012).

Riverside was recognized as one of the world’s most livable communities (by an international panel of judges at the 2010 International Awards for Livable Communities).

Riverside received the Playful City USA Award for the fourth year in a row (for American cities that have made innovative play for children a priority for the community, 2011).

For the fifth year in a row, Riverside was named in the Top Digital Cities in the United States. (in 250,000 or more population category, Digital Cities Survey, 2011).

Riverside was chosen by the Smithsonian to have a formal affiliation with the City and the Riverside Metropolitan Museum – the only municipality in the nation to be so honored.

#### Residents:

Population, 2012: 308,511

Population Growth, 2002-10: 12%

#### Employment:

Number of Jobs, Q4 2012: 147,900

Total Workforce, Q4 2011: 166,500

Job Growth 2002-10: 3%

#### Household Income:

Average Household Income, 2010: \$66,923

#### Retail Sales:

Sales Tax Revenue 2010: \$4.3 billion

Sales Tax Revenue Growth 2008-11: 6%

#### Year of Incorporation: 1883

Square Miles: 85

#### Home Values:

Median Single Family Home Price,

January 2013: \$225,500

Transportation Corridors: I-215, Riverside (91) & 60 Freeways,  
BNSF & UP Railways, LAWA - Ontario International Airport,  
Riverside Municipal Airport, March Inland Cargo Port



# City of Riverside

## 2013 Federal Legislative Priorities List

**1. Job Creation:** Riverside urges the federal government to make strategic investments in local governments and their economy through job creation and job stabilization. This issue is the City's first and foremost legislative priority.

- Seek fiscal assistance to help create local jobs
- Support immediate and flexible funding such as tax exempt municipal financing of infrastructure projects as a mechanism for job creation
- Support technology transfer and investment for creation of new industries

**2. Transportation Infrastructure:** To support a thoughtful approach to transportation infrastructure planning and to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.

- Obtain funding for grade separations to mitigate the impact on City residents
- Promote fairness and competition for transportation infrastructure funding based on impact

**3. Public Safety:** Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.

- Seek funding for gang intervention and enforcement through programs such as Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Seek funding for interoperability to enhance vital communication across jurisdictions
- Work with FEMA to support the National Urban Search and Rescue Program and seek reimbursement for costs associated with City employees' participation
- Seek funding from FEMA for pre-earthquake building safety mitigation
- Support funding for, and designation under, the Urban Area Security Initiative program to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training and exercise needs of high-threat, high density urban areas to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism

**4. Public Utilities:** Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight.

- Support local control by allowing municipalities flexibility to proactively implement programs and policies
- Maintain and protect reliable, affordable energy and water delivery to the City
- Protect and maintain the financial well-being of publicly owned utilities
- Support efforts to modernize the Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to allow water infrastructure projects, water supply and water quality activities to proceed while protecting the species and habitats



**5. Livability:** Riverside seeks the resources, including financing, grant funding and maintaining tax exempt municipal bond financing, to further the City's revitalization initiatives and to protect and enhance the City's neighborhoods.

- Promote policies that increase quality housing, expand homeownership, and reduce foreclosures
- Support flexible financing for revitalization initiatives
- Seek funding to support transit-oriented development
- Support funding for Community Development Block Grants
- Seek funding for park development, improvements and programs
- Support investment in youth programs and vocational education
- Support fully funded, efficient, and effective public transit systems operating in a balanced transportation network
- Support local control of Public Education and Government (PEG) television stations
- Seek legislation to require the relocation of the National Guard Armory from Fairmount Park

**6. Environment and Public Health:** Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents' quality of life.

- Riverside advocates for incentives, at the federal level, to assist municipalities in creating more sustainable communities
- Support policies to promote a strong, well-funded local health care system
- Support policies to improve access to health care for the region





# JOB CREATION

**Riverside urges the federal government to make strategic investments in local governments and their economy through job creation and job stabilization. This issue is the City's first and foremost legislative priority for 2013.**

## **FOCUS AREA #1: Seek fiscal assistance to help create local jobs**

Cities are continuing to face budget challenges for 2013 and 2014. And, with the pace of the nation's economic recovery still uncertain, local government budget tightening over the next couple of years could impose a drag on the nation's economic performance. In an effort to advance our shared, long-term goals of economic prosperity for our nation, the federal government must do more to create jobs, support infrastructure investment and help local governments stabilize their budgets.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Seek fiscal assistance directly to local governments to save public sector jobs
- Support Administration efforts to craft multi-agency economic development grant opportunities such as the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge grants and Strong Cities, Strong Communities grants
- Oppose sequestration which would have negative impacts on the City's budget and ability to serve its citizens
- Support local revenue streams through legislation such as the Marketplace Fairness Act which grants states the authority to compel online and catalog retailers to collect sales tax revenue that would otherwise be lost
- Seek job creation through investment in programs such as Public Service Employment, the Summer Youth Employment Program and the Community Oriented Policing Services Program
- Seek job creation through infrastructure spending targeted to local governments
- Improve access to credit for local governments and small businesses by extending authorization of the Build America Bonds and the increases in the Bank Qualified Debt Limits, extending the excluding application of the Alternative Minimum Tax on private activity and governmental bonds, enacting pending legislation requiring that all bonds be evaluated by credit rating agencies with the same risk of default criteria, and make permanent the expanded authority for Federal Home Loan Banks to issue letters of credit for non-housing projects
- Support March Air Reserve Base development programs, such as ensuring the follow on mission of the MQ-9 Reaper for the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing and assignment of the Boeing KC-46A tanker at March Air Reserve Base – a key logistics site for Inland Southern California and a jobs generator for the region



## **FOCUS AREA #2: Support immediate and flexible funding, such as tax exempt municipal bond financing of infrastructure projects, as a mechanism for job creation**

Tax exempt bonds are a primary mechanism for funding the nation's public infrastructure. Three quarters of the total United States investment in infrastructure is accomplished with tax exempt bonds that are issued by over 50,000 state and local governments and authorities.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support federal funding in the Department of Energy for research and development of new technologies
- Support federal incentives such as tax credits and grants in lieu of credits for investment in emerging technology industries
- Support efforts to maintain tax exemption on municipal bonds

## **FOCUS AREA #3: Support technology transfer and investment for creation of new industries**

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support federal funding in the Department of Energy for research and development of new technologies
- Support federal incentives such as tax credits and grants in lieu of credits for investment in emerging technology industries



## TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

**To support a thoughtful approach to transportation infrastructure planning and to mitigate the disproportionate share of negative impacts on the City related to national goods movement.**

With Riverside County growth anticipated to develop exponentially in the next several decades, it becomes more important to approach transportation planning in our region strategically and without delay.

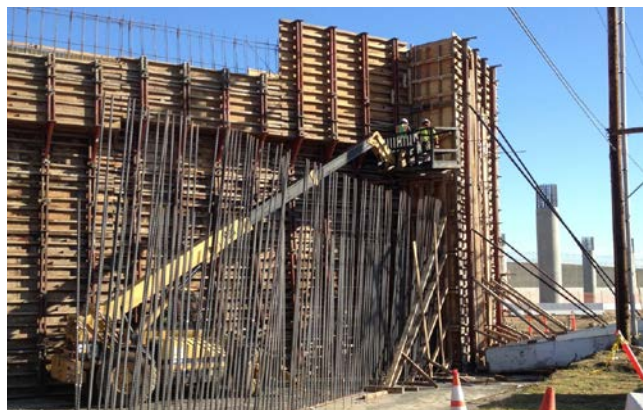
Goods movement is a national issue that disproportionately impacts Riverside residents. More than half of the nation's freight moves through west coast ports, and 75% of the rail freight exiting the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach travels through the Inland Empire to destinations throughout the United States. Residents are already seeing railroad crossing gates down for as long as 6 hours per day as 128 freight trains pass through Riverside on an average day, soon exceeding 2030 delay estimates in several locations.

Within the City of Riverside, 19 grade separations are needed to improve emergency service providers' response times, mitigate the public danger of fast moving trains, combat gridlock, and reduce hazardous pollutants from idling vehicles stopped for train crossings.

Historically, strategic discussions related to goods movement have been dominated by the ports and major coastal cities, with insufficient attention paid to the Inland Empire's environmental, safety, infrastructure, and employment concerns. The City of Riverside seeks to educate lawmakers and leaders on the disproportional impact of goods movement on the City and the mitigation required.

The recently enacted Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) surface transportation reauthorization makes major changes to the federal highway, transit and safety programs through September 30, 2014. The City will monitor the implementation of MAP-21, in particular those provisions concerning the establishment of a national freight policy and the development of a national freight strategic plan.

In addition, the new law also reforms the criteria for the Small Starts process by including economic development benefits and land use patterns supporting public transportation intended to benefit streetcar type projects. The City will work closely with the Federal Transit Administration on efforts to explore the viability of streetcar funding in Riverside.





The City will prepare for the next reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Program and will advocate for a sustainable source of revenue that will provide for stable funding for investment in transportation infrastructure and the eligibility of cities to be the direct recipients of federal funds.

The City also supports continued funding through the appropriations process of the Transportation Investment for Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant program.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Obtain funding for grade separations to mitigate the impact on City residents**

#### **Federal Action Items:**

- Pursue appropriations funding for priority at-grade crossings in Riverside
- Explore opportunities to increase local control of the duration and location of train stops to prevent the blockage of major intersections in highly urbanized areas and reduce the negative impacts to emergency responders

### **FOCUS AREA #2: Promote fairness and competition for transportation infrastructure funding based on impact**

#### **Federal Action Items:**

- Maximize federal funding for Riverside transportation projects in the surface transportation reauthorization legislation
- Support efforts to maintain tax exemption on municipal bonds
- Actively explore solutions to generate funding from alternative sources to fund goods movement-related transportation improvements
- Support efforts to ensure the fair distribution of funds to California under federal highway formulas
- Support funding to refurbish California's aging transportation infrastructure
- Support public-private partnerships that protect the public interest while leveraging private investments in infrastructure
- Support a national approach to trade corridor infrastructure



## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Riverside seeks funding and tools to promote the safety of City residents and to support public safety employees.**

The City of Riverside's Fire and Police Departments provide essential services for residents and local businesses. As the nature of protecting the public changes, legislative action is required to help these public safety professionals meet the challenges they face.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Seek funding for gang intervention and enforcement through programs such as Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**

The City of Riverside has been recognized for its comprehensive approach to gang prevention, intervention and suppression administered by the City of Riverside Police Department and the Department of Park, Recreation and Community Services. Allied agencies include the Riverside and Alvord Unified School Districts, County Probation, the office of Riverside County District Attorney and the Countywide Gang Task Force.

A highlight of these programs is Project BRIDGE (Building Resources for the Intervention and Deterrence of Gang Engagement). Formed in 1995, Project BRIDGE aims to reduce the incidence of youth gang violence, gang membership, and gang-related activities in the City of Riverside. Based at Cesar Chavez Community Center, the program provides services to participants between the ages of 12 – 22, including outreach, employment development, education, mentoring, and tattoo removal.

#### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support maximum funding for Department of Justice (DOJ) Byrne program funds and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs
- Support the City's efforts to obtain grant funding for anti-gang initiatives





## **FOCUS AREA #2: Seek funding for interoperability to enhance vital communication across jurisdictions**

The ability to better communicate between police, fire and ambulance responders and across jurisdictions will save lives in a mutual aid emergency situation. The County of Riverside is taking the lead in developing a regional radio system that can be shared by cities, counties and other government agencies in the region. Department of Homeland Security and other federal funding sources are needed to develop and implement a regional radio system.

In 2012 Congress created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to be the framework to implement a much needed nationwide interoperable broadband network to help police, firefighters, emergency medical service professionals and other public safety officials stay safe and do their jobs. FirstNet will hold the spectrum license for the network and is charged with taking all actions to build, deploy and operate the network in consultation with Federal, State, tribal and local public safety entities.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Federal legislation to increase appropriations and grant funding to help fund emergency communications infrastructure
- Support for FirstNet and support that local public infrastructure is utilized wherever possible and that municipalities are involved in every stage of the planning and deployment of FirstNet



## **FOCUS AREA #3: Work with FEMA to support the National Urban Search and Rescue Program and seek reimbursement for costs associated with City employees' participation**

The City of Riverside Fire Department sponsors a multi-agency Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team, known as California Task Force 6 (CATF-6). CATF-6 is one of eight teams in California and 28 teams in the nation. Since its formation in 1992, CATF-6 has been deployed to or supported with Incident Support Team members on 30 emergency and disaster sites. While the City is reimbursed for costs associated with responding to national events, employer costs are higher in California than other states, and the City seeks full reimbursement for its employer obligations, including workers' compensation.

### **Federal Action Item:**

- Support federal legislation to secure continued funding for the US&R program and to reimburse State and local government sponsors of US&R Task Forces for all costs incurred as a result of the federal mission



#### **FOCUS AREA #4: Seek funding from FEMA for pre-earthquake building safety mitigation**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency administers the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program to provide funding for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event, such as an earthquake. PDM grants are awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to State allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.

##### **Federal Action Item:**

- Support efforts to obtain FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation funds or similar grants

#### **FOCUS AREA #5: Support funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program to address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.**

The UASI program was authorized by Congress in 2002, and has received annual appropriations each year since then. The program supports investments in over 30 major urban areas, including the Riverside area. In our metro area, the funds are invested in building and enhancing regional capabilities to detect, deter, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism, homeland security threats and other hazards and risks.

The Riverside area was designated a UASI Program on February 1, 2008 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This designation appointed the City of Riverside Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as the administrative agent for this important program. The Riverside UASI includes 19 cities, 2 counties and 1 federal Indian tribe from the Inland Empire region of southern California. Additionally, 32 other cities fall within the sphere of influence of the Riverside UASI.

##### **Federal Action Item:**

- Support maximum funding for the UASI program in the FY13 Homeland Security appropriations bill and oppose efforts to further limit the number of UASI jurisdictions
- Oppose efforts by FEMA to consolidate preparedness grants





## PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Riverside supports preserving the local rate making authority of municipally-owned utilities and promotes voluntary compliance instead of direct oversight.**

As a publicly-owned utility, the Mayor, City Council and Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) local governing board work to protect and enhance the value of the utility for Riverside residents. Unlike the customers of investor-owned, State regulated utilities, every RPU customer is a utility owner, with a direct stake in policies that affect rates and services. Lower rates, community involvement, public accountability, local decision-making and full attention to customer service are some of the important benefits of local control. Independence from the California Public Utility Commission is critical to preserving the integrity of this system of local governance.

Attempts by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to exercise jurisdiction over and regulate municipally-owned utilities would have a significant impact on the rate setting authority of the City Council and the local utility board, support of local programs and services, and the approval of utility sites and facilities.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Support local control by allowing municipalities flexibility to proactively implement programs and policies**

With increasing regulatory and environmental challenges placed on energy and water resources, conservation and efficiency measures must play a significant role in creating a sustainable community.

#### **Federal Action Items:**

- Seek authorization of and federal funding for water or electric, transmission, distribution and generation system improvements
- Seek authorization of and federal funding for local recycled water projects
- Participate in the implementation process of the Dodd-Frank Act so that public power entities are treated and categorized appropriately



## **FOCUS AREA #2: Maintain and protect reliable, affordable energy and water delivery to the City**

Regulatory and geographic hurdles continue to put greater strains on the nation's electric and water infrastructure as it struggles to meet the growing demand for water and power. Despite these challenges, Riverside embraces its obligation to provide reliable energy and water delivery to its customers. By proactively maintaining the local distribution system, protecting valuable infrastructure, supporting the enhancement of the statewide electric and water conveyance system, and securing new reliable sources of water and energy within the City, RPU provides customers reliable utility service.

### **Federal Action Item:**

- Support enactment of a reasonable federal renewable energy standard (RES) that does not compromise grid reliability, does not jeopardize existing or future out of state contracts for renewable energy, and recognizes the need for greater access to transmission

## **FOCUS AREA #3: Protect and maintain the financial well-being of publicly owned utilities**

By ensuring public power entities minimize their costs and maximize eligible incentives, RPU will be able to better serve and enhance its' customer owned utility.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Encourage modifications to the tax code that currently inhibit public power utilities from developing new generation and transmission
- Seek codification of current IRS policy deeming payments publicly-owned electric utilities make to investor-owned utilities to fund or reimburse construction costs for capital facilities (including interconnection and associated facilities) used to serve the publicly-owned Utility's customers as non-taxable transactions to the investor-owned utility
- Seek authorization of federally secured tax-exempt bonds, which are currently prohibited, to enhance liquidity, reduce the borrowing costs of State and local governments, and help fill the void left by the demise of municipal bond insurers.
- Support increased funding for USBR Title XVI projects
- Support the current levels for Direct Payment Bonds, also known as Build America Bonds

## **FOCUS AREA #4: Support efforts to modernize the Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to allow water infrastructure projects, water supply and water quality activities to proceed while protecting the species and habitats**

Water conveyance is essential for sustainability, but as our water demands increase, the natural state of the water system changes. Working together with state, federal and regional water agencies, we must find innovative solutions to address these challenges and ensure we meet our region's water needs.

### **Federal Action Item:**

- Advocate for changes in the Critical Habitat Designation process so that local water needs, human population and local economic conditions are given higher consideration





## LIVABILITY

Riverside seeks the resources, including grant funding and maintaining tax exempt municipal bond financing, to further the City's revitalization initiatives and to protect and enhance the City's neighborhoods.

Riverside faces an increasing need to invest in quality of life initiatives and amenities to serve a diverse and active community.

### **FOCUS AREA #1: Promote policies that increase quality housing, expand homeownership, and reduce foreclosures**

Riverside is dedicated to providing quality housing for all of its citizens. The City's housing program is comprehensive in its approach to empowering residents to become homeowners, protecting the safety and integrity of neighborhoods, providing shelter and access to services for the homeless, and ensuring quality affordable housing options for residents at all socio-economic levels. The City supports efforts to expand and protect homeownership for local residents.

During this time of volatility in the housing market, the federal government can play an important role in helping to stabilize the housing market and assisting homeowners affected by the mortgage financing crisis.

#### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support increased tools for local governments to help stabilize neighborhoods in crisis and assist local residents
- Support legislation that promotes owner-occupied primary residences over investors and that makes it easier to transform foreclosed properties into opportunities for first-time homeownership
- Pursue affordable housing and homeownership grant programs
- Seek a short-term increase in income limits or an exemption to assist a wider range of moderate income residents struggling to keep their homes
- Support all legislative initiatives that stimulate home purchases through tax buyer credit subsidies or other means
- Protect City interests in eminent domain and support legislative initiatives that hold homeowners harmless in property takings
- Seek modifications to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program that allow local jurisdictions to design programs that reflect local conditions



## **FOCUS AREA #2: Support flexible financing for revitalization initiatives that protect and enhance residents' quality of life**

The sequestration process to reduce federal spending threatens key financing tools used by the City to build infrastructure that supports critical functions as well as enhances Riverside neighborhoods.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support maintaining tax exempt municipal bond financing

## **FOCUS AREA #3: Seek funding to support transit-oriented development**

The City places a high priority on transit-oriented development projects that take advantage of existing infrastructure, increase walk-ability by contributing to safe and attractive pedestrian environments, and create new opportunities for mixed-use neighborhoods.

### **Federal Action Item:**

- Support transit oriented development priorities in reauthorization legislation
- Seek federal funding for development of a Multi-Modal Transit Center

## **FOCUS AREA #4: Support funding for Community Development Block Grants**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible federal program with a real local impact. Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to local government and states to address a wide range of community development needs. Eligible activities must benefit low- and moderate-income persons, help prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or address urgent community development needs.

Increased CDBG funding can be a key tool for local governments as they continue to deal with the mortgage crisis. In order for the CDBG program to sustain its maximum impact, reliable funding must be available to communities. To the detriment of local communities since FY 2001, average funding levels have been reduced by 10 percent annually.

### **Federal Action Items:**

- Support efforts to maintain funding or increase funding for CDBG
- Oppose efforts to decrease the cap on administrative costs for CDBG
- Work with existing coalitions (National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, NACo, and NAHRO) to support CDBG funding
- Work with the administration during the budget process to promote increased availability of funds to revitalize neighborhoods and expand affordable housing





## FOCUS AREA #5: Seek funding for park development, improvements and programs

The City of Riverside seeks to help improve regional and State park resources within the City to promote economic development and recreational opportunities for residents.

### Federal Action Items:

- Seek opportunities to obtain federal funding
- Support for the Community Parks Revitalization Act which would commit funding towards rehabilitation and construction of urban parks
- Support federal programs for preservation and conservation of historical agricultural lands

### Santa Ana River Crest to Coast Trail

The Santa Ana River has been recognized for its regional significance in providing recreational and educational opportunities, supporting wildlife and associated native habitats, and addressing water quality issues. In 2006, the Counties of Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino formed a partnership to facilitate planning, project implementation, cost sharing, reporting, and accountability as the 100-mile long regional recreational parkway along the Santa Ana River is further developed. As this long-envisioned project moves towards completion, federal support is required.

### Federal Action Items:

- Support a cooperative agreement between Riverside County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for trail building and management efforts around the Prado Dam as provided for in the Water Resources Development Act of 1990
- Support additional federal appropriations for the Santa Ana River Mainstream project



## FOCUS AREA #6: Support investment in youth programs and vocational education

According to the California Employment Development Department, the unemployment rate in the Inland Empire was 11.6% which is higher than the 9.5% percent statewide rate. In an ever-evolving economy, Californians need multiple pathways to rewarding and productive careers. For this reason it is vitally important to expand opportunities for high school and community college students to take high-quality, academically rigorous career technical education (CTE) courses. A strong investment in CTE programs will provide students with additional options and opportunities and help to meet the changing demands of California business and industry.

The Youth Opportunity Centers in the City are a valuable resource for learning life skills, career counseling, obtaining tutoring and educational support, and for developing leadership and civic responsibility.

### Federal Action Items:

- Maximize federal funding for after school programs and workforce development programs
- Support City efforts to identify and solicit grant funding from the Department of Labor for workforce training funds and vocational education

## FOCUS AREA #7: Support fully funded, efficient, and effective public transit systems operating in a balanced transportation network

An effective bus and passenger rail system helps residents get to work, school, shopping centers and public services. This infrastructure is vitally important for those who cannot drive or who do not have reliable access to a vehicle.

Additionally, as more commuters choose to take public transit, there are important benefits for the community. Fewer cars on the freeways and increased public transit use result in reduced travel time for everyone, cleaner air, and better access to key job centers in Southern California. A strong public transit system helps make Riverside a destination for employers and employees.

### Federal Action Items:

- Support the Riverside Transit Authority and Riverside County Transportation Commission's efforts to promote further investment in bus and passenger rail service, such as development of a Multi-Modal Transit Center
- Support expansion of passenger rail capacity along with freight rail capacity expansion
- Support funding for planning and implementation of pedestrian, bike and streetcar infrastructure



## FOCUS AREA #8: Support local control of Public Education and Government (PEG) television stations

PEG stations televise city council meetings, school board meetings, local emergency information, homework help, support non-profits, high school sporting events and other local programming, not otherwise broadcast on television. PEG channels receive no federal funding and yet have been negatively impacted by cable franchising laws, limiting local government's ability to support ongoing operations.

### Federal Action Items:

- Support the removal of the distinction between “capital” and “operating” expenditures, thereby allowing local entities to determine the best use of their PEG funds
- Ensure PEG channels are available to every cable subscriber as part of basic cable service, without additional charges to customers for transmission or rental equipment
- Ensure cable operators transmit the PEG channels without charge to local governments

## FOCUS AREA #9: Seek legislation to require the relocation of the National Guard Armory from Fairmount Park

The City requests that the California National Guard relocate its maintenance shop operations and Guard unit functions at the Riverside Armory (Armory) to the March Air Reserve Base (MARB). Consolidation of operations between the Armory and MARB will eliminate existing redundancies in the operations at each facility, and enable the City to reclaim and redevelop the location to allow for expansion and revitalization of Fairmount Park, a regional resource.

The City has made significant investments in improvements to Market Street and intends to continue this level of investment in and around Fairmount Park. It is critical to the success of these plans, that the space currently occupied by the Armory be available to the city for uses compatible with Fairmount Park.

Relocation of the facility is predicated upon the construction of a new facility at MARB at an estimated cost of \$9.6 million. Funds for the construction must be requested as a top priority by the California National Guard and included in the Department of Defense budget request submitted to Congress as part of the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP). The Armory relocation remains a high priority for the California National Guard. Funding must be obtained to implement the move. The City will continue to work with the California National Guard and the National Guard Bureau to secure appropriations.

### Federal Action Item:

- Support legislation that will provide cooperation between the City and the California National Guard to relocate the Armory





# ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**Riverside supports activities that improve the environment and promote public health while maintaining residents' quality of life.**

In the 21st Century, environmental health and public health are essential components of a sustainable, vibrant city. However, public and private interests often complicate these issues, and public policy leaders must continually work to advance balanced solutions.

**FOCUS AREA #1: Riverside advocates for incentives, at the federal level, to assist municipalities in creating more sustainable communities**

## Clean and Green Initiative

In 2007, the City of Riverside created the Clean and Green Sustainable Riverside Action Plan which focuses on seven areas of urban life: Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Waste, Urban Design, Urban Nature, Transportation, and Water. Each focus area is addressed with specific action items. Since its implementation, Riverside has achieved most of the goals set forth in the Action Plan which has been recognized and applauded statewide. In January 2009, Riverside was designated as the first ever “Emerald City” by the California Department of Conservation. The designation recognizes sustainable green initiatives and the commitment to helping the State achieve State environmental priorities.

Support for specific “green” initiatives will be evaluated with a preference for those which reward innovation, conservation and sound practices instead of adding restrictions and penalties. The City seeks to lead by positive example, developing pilot projects that explore cutting edge ideas for sustainable action.

## **Federal Action Items:**

- Advocate for Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program
- Advocate for the reauthorization of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBS)
- Advocate for additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Advocate for ongoing funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants
- Support maximum allocation of allowances to Local Distribution Companies (LDC'S)
- Support Federal preemption provisions of various energy related policies
- Advocate for a favorable recognition and reconciliation process of federal Greenhouse Gas Emission legislation
- Support funding for implementation of the Green Action Plan



## FOCUS AREA #2: Support policies to promote a strong, well-funded local health care system

Access to emergency and trauma services in California has reached a critical point. Emergency treatment wait times have increased and a number of emergency rooms and trauma centers in California have closed in the last decade. Under the provisions of the Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act hospitals must provide emergency health care services to anyone who seeks treatment in an emergency department.

The Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino represent more than 10 percent of California's population, greater than 22 states of the union. These two Counties represent the fastest growing region in the State, yet the area is projected to have a shortfall of 1,140 physicians, 53 percent less than needed by 2015. The region also has the lowest number of primary care and specialist physicians per 100,000 residents in the State.

### Federal Action Items:

- Monitor legislation that increase funding for county healthcare expansion programs and provides assistance to local hospitals to cover the costs associated with treating uninsured patients
- Support funding for research and/or programs to improve health behaviors related to obesity and heart disease, two of our community's major health issues

## FOCUS AREA #3: Support policies to improve access to health care for the region

Access to health care in our region is substandard and will not meet the demands under the new Health Care Reform Legislation. Riverside County ranks 57th amongst California's 58 counties (2nd to last) in state reimbursements for health care and emergency room services meaning local hospitals and physicians are being shortchanged millions of dollars annually which equates to low and decreasing access to health care resources. Further complicating the matter, the State formula, which allocates funding for health services, uses an outdated and flawed formula.

### Federal Action Items:

- Support efforts to establish our region as a Medically Underserved Area by U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Increase federal funding for medical residency openings

